Special medical assistance for senior citizens

†521. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any plan to provide special medical assistance to senior citizens in government hospitals including All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS); and

(b) if so, the number of beds reserved for senior citizens in Government hospitals including AIIMS alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) In so far as the Central Government Hospitals located in Delhi namely, Safdarjung, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals, are concerned, separate registration counters/windows/rows are provided for senior citizens in OPDs to avoid standing in long queue. In addition, assistance like wheelchairs/trolleys are also provided for senior citizens in OPDs of Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital. They are attended on priority basis in OPDs. There is a weekly geriatric OPD in Dr. RML Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital.

In so far as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is concerned, preference is given to senior citizens with regard to OPD consultation, emergency management as well as patient's hospitalization.

In Safdarjung 104 beds are reserved for senior citizens and in other Hospitals including AIIMS, although there is no special reservation of beds for senior citizens, preference is given to them in admission and bed is allowed to them on priority.

Cases of Swine Flu

†522. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases of Swine Flu registered till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths due to Swine Flu till date, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has not been able to check this epidemic;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken so far by Government to check the Swine Flu?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The number of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths of Pandemic influenza A (H1N1) [as on 20.11.2009], State-wise is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(c) and (d) No.

(e) Government of India took a series of actions. A comprehensive plan including guidelines and standard operating procedures were put in place.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.